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RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 5 May 1851 —*for*,

COPY "of a REPORT, dated the 3d day of May 1851, from the Incumbered Estates Commissioners of *Ireland*, addressed to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, with respect to their Proceedings under the Incumbered Estates Commission."

Incumbered Estates Commission,
Henrietta street, Dublin, 3 May 1851.

My Lord,

WE have the honour to inform your Excellency, that on the 19th ultimo we caused two Returns to be transmitted to the office of the Secretary of State for Ireland in pursuance of a requisition of the House of Commons.

Those Returns are necessarily very voluminous, as they contain a detailed account of the proceedings of the Incumbered Estates Commission down to the 31st March 1851. We think it right, therefore, in addition to those Returns, to submit the following brief Report to your Excellency.

On the 25th October 1849, this court was opened for public business.

The total number of petitions presented up to 31st March 1851, is 1,676.

Upwards of one-half of the estates brought into our Court, were under Chancery Receivers, and in 147 cases the proprietors had taken the benefit of the Insolvent Debtors' Act.

The number of petitions filed by owners is 319, or about one-fifth of the total number presented up to the date above mentioned. Several petitions, however, presented in the names of incumbrancers, appear to have been so presented at the instance of the owners.

The total number of Court Orders (not including a vast number issued by each Commissioner in Chamber) is 5,413, viz.

Conditional Orders for Sale - - - - -	1,240
Absolute Orders for Sale - - - - -	1,038
Miscellaneous Orders - - - - -	3,137

The gross total of the rentals, as set out in the petitions filed to 31st March 1851, is 1,036,975*l* 11*s* 8*d* but the actual amount would probably not exceed 850,000*l*., as, in some cases, more than one petition has been presented for sale of the same estate, and the rentals attached to the petitions frequently exceed the true rentals of the estates.

The gross total of the incumbrances, as set out in the petitions filed to 31st March 1851, is 17,971,321*l* 1*s* 1*d*. But several of those incumbrances being judgments, and other securities collateral with mortgages and the like, are returned in duplicate in the Schedule, and in this way mentioned twice, and it sometimes happens, that the same incumbrance affecting the estates of different owners, is mentioned in more than one petition.

As to Estates Sold.

The number of estates sold to March 31, 1851, is 253, the total acreage of which, statute measure, is 227,929 a. 3r. 34p. Of this the quantity of arable land may be about 210,000 acres, or nearly one sixty-fifth of the arable land of

Ireland,

Ireland, which is estimated in the latest Poor Law Returns to be 13,464,300 acres

The rental of estates sold to March 31, 1851, is 107,707*l* 15*s*. 1*d*., or about one hundred and twentieth of the net annual Poor Law valuation of Ireland

The total amount of incumbrances on estates sold to March 31, 1851, as taken from the schedules lodged with the petitions, is 4,086,192*l* 13*s*. 4*d*., but, as before mentioned, several of these incumbrances are returned in duplicate

The total amount of purchase-money for estates sold to March 31, 1851, is 1,350,616*l* 0*s* 4*d*. Of this amount 84,404*l* 13*s*. 4*d*., or about one fifteenth part, has been allowed in payment of incumbrancers, who became purchasers

The Commissioners have paid out to creditors and claimants up to this date, 3rd day of May inclusive, the sum of 838,356*l* 0*s* 1*d*

The 253 estates sold to March 31, 1851, have been disposed of to 587 purchasers, nearly one half of whom are purchasers of lots that sold respectively for sums not exceeding 1,000*l*.

Property to the amount of about 160,000*l* has been acquired by English or Scotch purchasers (about 30 in number), as far as can be collected from their addresses stated in the deeds of conveyance

Estates have sold best in Antrim, Down, Meath, Westmeath, Tyrone, and Dublin, and at lowest rates in Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, and Mayo. In the latter counties the rents reserved are generally so disproportional to the value, as to afford no true measure of the income derivable out of the lands; and the heavy Poor Law taxation in the same districts has added to the depreciation of value, but a progressive, though slow, improvement in the sales is manifest even in those counties

As to the rates of purchase generally, it is fallacious to estimate the number of years from the published rentals, which usually represent the rents of 1845 and previous years, and which in many instances were even then excessive, and far beyond any sums that could possibly be collected from the tenants Besides, the occupying tenantry of many estates sold in this Court owed several years' arrears of rent to the former owners, and much of the land had been exhausted or unreclaimed, and devoid of suitable farm buildings, a state of things which would necessarily require a heavy outlay by the incoming purchasers

The Commissioners are of opinion, that it would be most desirable to authorize them, in fit and proper cases, to sell (together with the estate) all arrears of rent due at the time of the sale

We have, &c

(signed) *John Richards*
Mountefort Longfield
Charles James Hargreave

To His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

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INCUMBERED ESTATES COMMISSION
IRELAND)

COPY of a Report, dated the 3d May 1851, from the Incumbered Estates Commissioners of *Ireland*, addressed to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, with respect to their Proceedings under the Incumbered Estates Commission.

(*Sir William Somerville.*)

Ordered by The House of Commons *to be Printed*
5 *May* 1851.

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